




MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Los Angeles River Center & Gardens
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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Executive Officer

DATE: February 17, 2006

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI: Consideration of resolution authorizing a request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for augmentation to Proposition 50 grant SMM-0464 for Project Planning and Design services, and acceptance of said augmentation.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a request to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy for augmentation to Proposition 50 grant SMM-0464 for Project Planning and Design services in the amount of \$420,000, and acceptance of said augmentation.

Legislative Authority: Joint Exercise of Powers Act (PRC Section 6500 *et seq.*)

Background: On August 30, 2004, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (SMMC) authorized a grant of Proposition 50 funds in the amount of \$200,000 to the MRCA for Project Planning and Design Services in the Upper Los Angeles River Watershed and the coastal watershed portions of the Santa Monica Mountains Zone. On January 24, 2005, the SMMC augmented the grant by \$200,000. In early January 2006, MRCA staff found that expenses charged for activities in the Upper Los Angeles River watershed had exceeded the budgeted amount. The excess charges are estimated to be less than \$20,000.

The MRCA's Natural Resources and Planning Division staff utilized the subject grant for approximately 16 months for activities directly related to the acquisition, protection and restoration of land and water resources and associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs for a subset of projects listed on the MRCA Workprogram. Additional work remains to be completed in both the coastal and Upper Los Angeles River watersheds. An augmentation in the amount of \$400,000 will allow these activities to continue through the 2006/2007 fiscal year. It is expected that the additional funds would be split 65%/35% between the Los Angeles River Watershed and the coastal watersheds, respectively. However, if this distribution is inadequate for either area, the MRCA will notify the SMMC Chair and

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Executive Director and request written approval of a revised split.

A geographically specific project list was included with the original grant application, and included both land acquisition and improvement projects that protect land and water resources in order to reduce pollution, capture additional storm water runoff, protect and manage groundwater, reduce pollution of the Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and to provide habitat for fish and wildlife. An amended list will also be submitted for approval that includes project areas not contemplated in 2004.